

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05700 181422Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 /047 W

----- 035212

R 181341Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5640

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 5700

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EALR, SA, BA, KS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN LABOR PROBLEMS

REF (A) DHAHRAN 1008, (B) MANAMA 1174, (C) SEOUL 6284

1. EMBASSY/JIDDA CONCERNED LEST THERE BE OVER-REACTION IN RESPECT TO REPORTED SAUDI CONCERNS ABOUT KOREAN LABOR. EMBASSY HAS ALSO NOTED "MILITARY BEARING" AND "CLIGUISHNESS" OF KOREAN WORKERS. THE SAUDIS DO SEEM TO FIND THEM COLD, AND PERHAPS SOMEWHAT AWESOME. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE THE DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT THE SAUDIS LIKE DOING BUSINESS WITH THE KOREANS BECAUSE THEY ARE HARD-WORKING, TECHNICALLY COMPETENT, EXTRAORDINARILY EFFICIENT AND THEY DO NOT INTRUDE ON SAUDI LIFESTYLE. MOREOVER, SAUDIS KNOW THAT KOREANS WILL LEAVE KINGDOM WHEN THE WORK IS DONE. IT IS PRECISELY FOR OPPOSITE REASONS THAT SAUDIS CARE LESS FOR OTHER FOREIGN WORKERS FROM THE SUB-CONTINENT.

2. SAUDI PLANNING MINISTER, HISHAM NAZER, IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS POSED BY WASHINGTON STAR RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON, REPORTEDLY COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS BEGIN QUOTE:...SAUDI
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ARABIA IS A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE MARKET. YOU WOULD BE

SURPRISED THAT A COUNTRY LIKE SOUTH KOREA HAS...IN
CONTRACTS SURPASSED A COUNTRY LIKE JAPAN. THEY ARE VERY
EFFICIENT, THEY ARE OUT TO WIN, THEY HAVE LEARNED ALL
THE AMERICAN WAYS AND SYSTEMS BECAUSE YOU WERE IN SOUTH
KOREA AND THEY ARE COMING TO GET YOU, AND THEY ARE CHEAP
AND WE LIKE IT.....THEY DO THEIR JOB VERY WELL AND
THEY ARE ALWAYS AHEAD OF TIME. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS HEARD NO ADVERSE COMMENT FROM
SAUDIS ABOUT KOREAN LABOR--ON CONTRARY, ALL COMMENT
HAS BEEN FAVORABLE. VIEWED FROM JIDDA, WE BELIEVE ONLY
THING KOREANS HAVE TO DO FOR THE SAUDIS IS TO KEEP DOING
THEIR OWN THING.
PORTER

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